

# SINGLE TAX DEPARTMENT.

## RELIEVE THE FARMER.

Under the George system, the government will no more own and control land and "rent it out to the highest bidder" than it does now. Land, under his system, will continue to be owned by individuals precisely as it is now. It will be the speculation for the very enhancement of the value of the land which has resulted from the application of his own labor upon his own land.

The first step in carrying out the George doctrine in Texas is simply exempting by law all personal property and improvement on land from taxation, and requiring taxes to be levied on land values alone. Such a law would be a direct benefit to every farmer in the State.

Here in Harris County, at least six-sevenths of the land is wholly unimproved, and probably one-third of the lots within the corporate limits of the city of Houston are vacant. On an average all over the United States about one-half of the taxable value of a community is in personal property and improvements on the land.

In Harris County we must raise say \$500,000 a year to cover the county and municipal taxes. Now, in order to raise the sum on one-half the taxable values in the county, as would probably be necessary were we to exempt personal property and improvements on the land from taxation, we should of course be compelled to double the tax on land.

This would double the tax on land now paid on any tract of vacant land. It would, however, reduce the taxes on farms and residences from fifty to five hundred per cent. A hundred-acre farm in Harris County, the assessed valuation of which is \$1,000, pays a tax of \$10 a year. Now, what is the assessed valuation of wild land in the neighborhood similar in quality to such a tract, and which is likely enough owned by a non-resident speculator? Is it more than a dollar an acre? Is it more than one-tenth the assessed valuation of the improved farm? To the owner of such an improved farm I say, if the first step even in carrying out the George doctrine were adopted, the assessment of the speculator's land would be doubled, but your farm would be assessed at precisely the same valuation as his land adjoining of equal value with your own, regardless of the improvements. You would thus be assessed at \$200 instead of \$1,000, and your taxes would be \$2 a year instead of \$10, a reduction of taxation in your case of five hundred per cent. Yet people say that the farmers will never be such fools as to adopt the George theory. Time alone will show.

Henry George teaches that the more farms that are owned and improved, and the more machinery, buildings and factories are erected, the more coal beds and mineral deposits are developed, the more residences are built, the more labor is in demand and the better wages will the laborer get. The more wages the laborer gets the more will they have to spend, the more will they buy and the better will times be all around.

Why, then, should the man who improves land, who builds a residence, a storehouse, a factory or a tenement on land be fined by a tax gatherer on account of his enterprise and his willingness to do something with his money which gives employment to labor? If any one is to be fined, why should it not be the man who, instead of putting his money into productive enterprises, attempts to forestall labor by buying up the vacant lands, the undeveloped coal bed and mineral deposit, with the purpose of selling back to labor, a bounty for the bare privilege of making nature useful to mankind?

By taxing improvements, buildings, tenement houses and factories, we discourage the investment of capital in productive enterprises which give employment to labor. By taxing land, we encourage the investment of capital in land, which does not give employment to labor. If any one is to be fined, why should it not be the man who, instead of putting his money into productive enterprises, attempts to forestall labor by buying up the vacant lands, the undeveloped coal bed and mineral deposit, with the purpose of selling back to labor, a bounty for the bare privilege of making nature useful to mankind?

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# AGRICULTURAL HINTS.

## LIVE-STOCK NOTES.

Use plenty of bedding. GROOMING is as healthful in the winter as in summer.

WARM the bits before putting them into the horses' mouths.

Horses should be turned out for exercise every pleasant day.

To get the best results handling and training should begin when the colt is very young.

ONE-THIRD each of corn, oats and barley ground together makes a good winter ration.

KEEPING the horse's heels and legs clean in the winter is the best preventive for scratches.

STANDING in wet manure tends to make the feet of the horse tender. Keep the stable clean.

It is generally best to keep one team well shod during the winter to use on the road when slippery.

Courts will make a better growth and development if they are given a light feed of ground oats every day.

CHANGE the feed often enough to keep all stock with good appetites. They will thrive better on less feed.

SOME people who give the cattle the best of care neglect the hogs. The hog will repay good care as well as other kinds of stock.

BE CAREFUL against constipation in swine. The fat from the food tends to produce constipation. The opposite kinds of food tend to prevent it.

BE careful of the eyes of animals. They are just as delicate as the eyes of human beings. People often work around stock very carelessly with forks.

The swine breeder who feeds oil meal occasionally will not regret it. It is a tonic and a regulator of the bowels. Care should be taken not to feed too much.

GROOMING is a cheap way of improving the condition of the horse. It can be done at the simple cost of a curry comb and brush and the expenditure of a little elbow grease which will never be missed.

ALWAYS remember that a hog is a hog, and consequently, as the animal has no judgment about eating, you must exercise judgment for it. Better let the animal go a little hungry than to feed it beyond its capacity to utilize the food.

The manure of the pig pen is very valuable. One writer estimates the value of a pig's manure at a dollar and forty-two cents for every one hundred pounds from the time of birth to time of slaughtering. There is no better manure for roots.

## THE HARVEST MITE.

A Description of Two Varieties of This Annoying Insect.

The results produced by this insect are somewhat similar to those caused by the Acarus or "Itch Mite" described in section 284. These insects, especially Fig. 2, are very common in most sections over the whole southern half of the United States, and are found quite abundantly as far north as Central Illinois and Iowa. The writer can speak from a painful experience, while traveling, of their prevalence in Kansas and Missouri, and in most Southern States. A resident of McLean County, North

FIG. 1.—AMERICAN HARVEST MITE (A). FIG. 2.—IRRITATING HARVEST MITE (B). The engravings are greatly enlarged, the actual natural size of the full-grown insect is shown by the very small dot seen just below the body of each.

Central Illinois, tells us the "chiggers" are common and very annoying there. The true "Chiggers" (*Pulex irritans*) are found south of the United States in Mexico, etc. The two insects in the engravings are the offenders of this country, the irritating harvest mite being most common.

The mites get upon the skin, especially the lower limbs, and climb up over the lower half of the body, occasionally over the whole, and with their strong mandibles and arms, or elbows, Maxilla, etc., and their way down into the true skin, causing great irritation, which results in small swellings, redness and inflammation, causing an irresistible scratching. The insect is often "scratched" out before it can burrow deeply, thus giving relief.

Sulphur applications, the same as for the itch mite, or the use of kerosene will kill the insects and allay inflammation. Strong salt water is effective. A severe attack in Kansas was cured for the writer by a prolonged bath in Salt Lake, Utah. In Florida, mothers informed us that they used "scorched butter" on their children who were much annoyed by these pests.—Orange Judd Farmer.

STRIVING FOR SUCCESS.

It is Not the Crop That Wins, But the Man Back of It.

The condition of discontent pervades all human society, and so farmers are constantly seeking to "better themselves" by change, either in locality, occupation or production. One, for instance, hears of somebody's success in raising hops, and straightway resolves to try a few acres, while it is likely he knows nothing of the exacting requirements. Another reads glowing accounts of demand and high price for certain kinds of fruit in the city, and this story is broadened over until some tree popper drolls in with his breeding picture-books. The result is a large order for trees the purchaser can not use. Not only are all sorts of fruits, grains, and perhaps ornamental plants, tried in succession, but fancy poultry, cattle, horses, sheep, goats, fish and frogs—with all of which the great majority of experimenters fail, for reasons well known to the few who succeed—the principal secret of their success being perseverance, often costly, until every obstacle is overcome. Among my acquaintances are men who have accumulated comfortable fortunes in raising turnips and cabbages, others in raising celery, asparagus and similar common vegetables. Their fortunes were not made in a year or two, but in ten to twenty years. If a man has sense enough not to attempt cultivation of a crop unsuited to his soil, climate and market, it will make little difference what other kinds he raises—whether peanuts, potatoes, grain or fruit—for if plucky and ready to learn from experience, he is bound to win. It is not the crop that wins, but the man back of it.—A. S. Fuller, in N. Y. Tribune.

# INFORMATION ABOUT WESTERN CANADA.

Owing to the world-wide interest now taken in the fertile provinces of Western Canada, many of our readers are anxious to know more about the lands, climate, resources and chances open to intending settlers in the Canadian Dominion. The reputation of these prairie lands has been fairly earned by their enormous yields and natural adaptability to mixed and dairy farming, for they are unrivaled in productiveness.



At the close of 1899 a handsomely illustrated and neatly printed set of pamphlets was issued, fully describing the country from the Eastern portion of Manitoba to the Pacific Ocean. These have been carefully compiled by competent men, from the most reliable sources, and besides containing a vast amount of useful information, put in most readable shape, they contain a great number of letters from actual residents in the country, telling plainly what has been done. Furnished with maps and nicely illustrated they are well worth securing as books of reference.

Copies of one, or all of them, will be mailed free of charge to any address, if application is made to L. A. Hamilton, Winnipeg, Manitoba; or to J. F. Lee, 232 South Clark St., Chicago, Ill.; or to C. S. Sheehy, 11 Fort St. West, Detroit, Michigan.

The Right Sort of Benevolence.

A firm of contractors at Worcester, Mass., have provided, for the comfort of their men, a room fitted with book shelves and reading desks to be used as a reading-room. Across the floor runs a thick black line dividing the room in halves. The firm that did not want to let the men smoke in the room, but as they will use it chiefly during the noon hour, and like to smoke after eating, the Andersonville line arrangement was adopted. The smokers stay on one side and those who object on the other. On the tables devoted to magazines, beside several large workbenches, are periodicals relating to the business and the local daily papers, and several from Boston and Springfield. On the shelves about the room books of reference will be placed. The firm has already purchased a set of encyclopedias.—Boston Journal.

There is more Catarrh in this section of the country than all other diseases put together, and until the last few years was supposed to be incurable. For a great many years doctors pronounced it a local disease, and prescribed local remedies, and by constantly tampering with the system, they pronounced it incurable. Science has proven Catarrh to be a constitutional disease, and internal cures of the system are required. They offer one hundred dollars for any case it fails to cure. Send for circulars and testimonials. F. J. Cattell & Co., Toledo, O. Sold by Druggists, etc.

The man who lives beyond his means does not mean well.—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

The only true and safe intestinal worm killer is Dr. Bull's Vegetable Worm Destroyer. It has brightened the lives of many children and gladdened many a parent's heart.

A MAN may look as cheerful as a summer day and yet feel quite as blue.

Do not suffer from sick headache a moment longer. It is not necessary. Carter's Little Liver Pills will cure you. These are a little pill. Small price. Small dose. Six or eight pills.

When the balloon collapses in mid air the best of friends may fall out together.

People Are Killed by Coughs that Hale's Eucalypti and Tar and Sweetened Syrup Cures. People's Footbath Drops Cure in one minute.

Why is a mouse like a load of hay?—Because the cat'll eat it.

THE MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Jan. 12, 1901.

CATTLE—Native Steers, 3 1/2 to 5 1/2; Hogs—Good to Choice, 4 1/2 to 5 1/2; FLOUR—Winter Wheat, 3 40 to 5 50; WHEAT—No. 2 Red, 1 10 to 1 15; CORN—No. 2, 50 to 55; OATS—No. 2, 40 to 45; POTATOES—New Seed, 11 50 to 12 00.

ST. LOUIS.

COTTON—Middling, 5 1/2 to 5 3/4; HOPS—Good to Choice, 4 1/2 to 5 1/2; SUGAR—Common to Select, 3 20 to 3 40; SHEET—Fair to Choice, 1 10 to 1 15; FLOUR—Patent Choice, 4 45 to 4 80; WHEAT—No. 2 Red Winter, 1 10 to 1 15; OATS—No. 2, 40 to 45; POTATOES—New Seed, 11 50 to 12 00.

CHICAGO.

CATTLE—Shipping Steers, 3 50 to 5 00; HOPS—Good to Choice, 4 1/2 to 5 1/2; SUGAR—Common to Select, 3 20 to 3 40; SHEET—Fair to Choice, 1 10 to 1 15; FLOUR—Patent Choice, 4 45 to 4 80; WHEAT—No. 2 Red Winter, 1 10 to 1 15; OATS—No. 2, 40 to 45; POTATOES—New Seed, 11 50 to 12 00.

NEW ORLEANS.

FLOUR—High Grade, 4 40 to 5 15; OATS—Choice Western, 50 to 55; HAY—Choice, 16 00 to 16 25; BUTTER—Old Moss, 20 to 25; RICE—Medium, 10 to 15; COTTON—Middling, 10 to 15.

LOUISVILLE.

WHEAT—No. 2 Red, 1 10 to 1 15; CORN—No. 2, 50 to 55; OATS—No. 2, 40 to 45; POTATOES—New Seed, 11 50 to 12 00.

ST. CINCINNATI.

CATTLE—Shipping Steers, 3 50 to 5 00; HOPS—Good to Choice, 4 1/2 to 5 1/2; SUGAR—Common to Select, 3 20 to 3 40; SHEET—Fair to Choice, 1 10 to 1 15; FLOUR—Patent Choice, 4 45 to 4 80; WHEAT—No. 2 Red Winter, 1 10 to 1 15; OATS—No. 2, 40 to 45; POTATOES—New Seed, 11 50 to 12 00.

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